
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 21, 2017



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

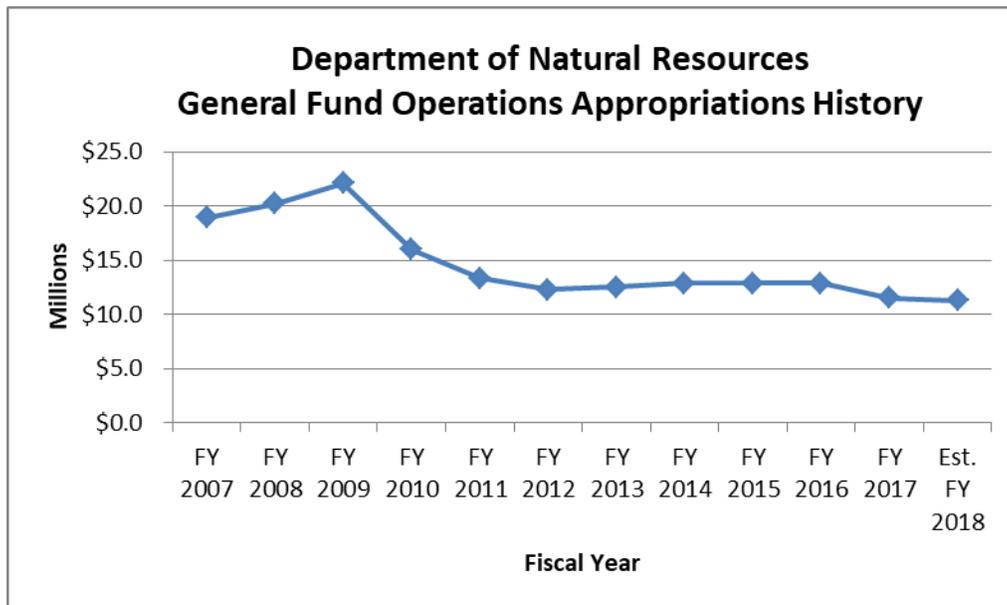
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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET HEARING — DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Budget Hearing. Director Chuck Gipp of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) presented budget information to Governor Kim Reynolds on November 20, 2017. The total FY 2019 General Fund budget request is \$13.7 million. The request includes \$11.3 million for operations, \$1.9 million for the Floodplain Management Program, and \$500,000 for the Forestry Health Management Program. This is a status-quo budget request compared to estimated FY 2018.

General Fund History. The General Fund appropriation for operations is used primarily for State park operations. The following chart illustrates the General Fund appropriations for operations for FY 2007 through estimated FY 2018:



Success Stories. The DNR provided information on the following successful projects completed in FY 2017:

- The Lake Restoration Program has completely restored 22 lakes, with 21 more lakes currently in the restoration process and 15 lakes in the planning phase.
- The DNR has partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University, and the federal government to digitally map more than 30.0 million acres undergoing conservation practices to assist with the Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
- Over 550 Iowa citizens attended one of the 18 Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Assemblies.

Challenges. The DNR also provided information on the following challenges for FY 2018:

- As the General Fund appropriation for DNR operations decreases, funding to the State parks also decreases. Of the 68 State parks or recreation areas managed by the DNR, 24.0% have two or more

full-time employees, 37.0% have one full-time employee, and 39.0% have less than one full-time employee.

- Revenues to the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund remain stable, but expenditures for staff, equipment, boats, and vehicles continue to increase, and the future solvency of the Trust Fund is questionable.
- The DNR owns 374,500 acres of land, which is less than 1.0% of the land in Iowa. The majority of the land owned is forested or highly erodible and is used for habitat development instead of agricultural production. In FY 2017, the DNR paid over \$900,000 in property taxes on the land that was purchased with funding from the REAP Fund or the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

Additional Information. Additional information is available at the [DNR website](#).

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